Discussion Meeting with Journalist on

Free & Fair Election 2001

Venue: Jatiya Press Club (VIP lounge)

Date: Wednesday January 24, 2001

Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) and

Study&Research Group of MSS

Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) held a discussion meeting on "Free and Fair

judges in a split verdict on the death

reference by a Division Bench of the High Court on December 14.

The other judge upheld the death

verdict on the five to a third judge

and he has fixed February 14 for the

been instructed by his client to file a

writ petition under Article 102 of the

Constitution if the respondents fail

to act within 15 days of receipt of the

Secretary, Law Secretary, complain-

ant in the case Mohitul Islam and

The respondents are Home

Saifur Rahman cited the now

incorporated by the fifth

repealed Indemnity Ordinance and

Clause 6 of paragraph 3A of the

Fourth Schedule of the Constitu-

amendment, indemnifying all

actions on August 15, 1975 and

afterwards under martial law, in

repealed by parliament on Novem-

ber 12, 1996, lifting immunity of the

15 accused against legal proceed

ings. The repeal was upheld by the

Bring radical changes: Temple

business needs to be improved by

modernising the civil service and

increasing the public sector

accountability, which would reduce corruption. "The judicial system

needs to be strengthened to admin-

ister justice more efficiently. The

deterioration of law and order

situation needs to be reversed so

that businesses aren't subject to

extortion and can operate free of

He also called for continuation of

liberalising the trade regime, which

has been stalled and been modestly

it is an important time in Bangla-

desh's political history. He said

election campaigns are about to be

launched in the country, which is

increasingly open to vigorous public

harassment.'

The Indemnity Ordinance was

notice given on Tuesday.

the Sessions Judge of Dhaka.

force till April 6,1979.

The Chief Justice sent the split

Khan Saifur Rahman said he has

sentence of all the 15.

hearing.

Bangabandhu murder

Supreme Court in 1998.

proceedings of the case.

But Saifur argued in the notice,

'Clause 6 of paragraph 3A of the

fourth schedule of the Constitution

stands with all its force, rendering

notice is aimed at 'delaying' the

President assents

to 3 bills

Some sources however said the

the FIR in the case ineffective."

Election, 2001" at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

High security alert

in Delhi

a high security alert in the capital today

following intelligence agency reports that

terrorist suicide squads could launch an attack before or during the country's

Republic Day on Friday, reports AP.The

government says its security agencies

have gathered specific information that India's Home Minister Lal Krishna

Advani and Defense Minister George Fernandes, key members of Prime

Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Cabinet, could be the likely targets of attack by

Muslim militants. Security forces have

also issued a warning about a woman

suicide bomber, who they fear would use

the occasion of a Republic Day parade for

a high profile terrorist mission. India's top

government and military officials, diplo-

mats and foreign guests, attend the

ware such as the Agni-II ballistic missile

and is punctuated by Air Force flyovers.Algerian President Abdelaziz

Bouteflika is the chief guest. Hundreds of

thousands of people gather along one of

New Delhi's main avenues to watch the

parade, a highly colorful pageant to mark

the anniversary of the adoption of India's

constitution 51 years ago. The

unidentified woman, alleged to be a

member of a terrorist hit team

belonging to a Kashmiri insurgent

outfit, Jaish-e-Mohammed, was

holed up in a hide-out in the capital

and was likely to strike before the

more to attract foreign investment

than tax concessions or other incen-

He said that many critics here

complain that the private sector

doesn't perform well. "If this is true,

perhaps it is because of the poor

environment in which the private

Earlier in his speech, Temple

said that the level of corruption in

the country is high and that the

quality of the civil administration is

low in Bangladesh. And as a conse-

quence, private firms may concen-

trate on obtaining special favours.

protection, subsidies and cheap

credit from the government as a way

of compensating for a lack of com-

gangs, equipped with firearms,

He said that environment of

tives," he said

sector functions.'

parade, which showcases military hard-

NEW DELHI, Jan 24: Police declared

FEMA

COMILLA, Jan 24: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said her government has created an atmosphere where nobody could use the armed forces for political ambitions, reports UNB.

"Armed forces have been completely freed from politics and chain of command has been established," she said addressing a Darbar of army after witnessing a joint training and demonstration

The demonstration of the 33rd infantry division was held at Lalmai in the district with members of the armed forces using paratroopers, fighter jets, tanks and cannons.

During the one-hour mock fight they demonstrated attack and counter-attack amid sounds of firing and smoke creating a war-like situation.

The Prime Minister, wearing combat jacket and cap of the army, witnessed the mock war "death trap" conducted under the leadership of Brigadier General Iqbal Karim and Brig Gen Fakruddin Haider.

Earlier, Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Harunur Rashid and Comilla Area Commander Maj Gen

Alauddin Mohammad Wadud received the Prime Minister at the demonstration area. Local MPs, chief of naval staff and chief of air staff and senior defence officials were also present.

Addressing the soldiers and officers of the area, Hasina said Bangladesh Army is now much more organised and stronger than any time in the past following the sincere efforts of her government.

She said members of the armed

the country by discharging their duties in the UN peacekeeping missions with utmost sincerity and Hasina said the army is also

forces have brightened the image of

engaged in various nation-building activities at home, like Ashravan, "As a result, the gap between people and army has been reduced greatly."

She said the success of army largely depends on people's support and cooperation. Without people's support, she said, the army cannot win any war.

Jail Killing Case

From Page 1 days. But the court fixed

29 for further hearing on the basis of time prayer by the state. Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam

did not oppose the petition for treatment of the accused but prayed for recording deposition of the complainant of the case. After hearing both sides, the

judge adjourned the proceedings for non-appearance of Nurul Islam Manzoor in the court and filing a criminal revision pending with the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

However, Nesar Alam, the Deputy Jailor submitted the custody warrant of Nurul Islam Manzoor mentioning that the accused was under treatment at the jail hospital All attempts were made to produce him (accused) before the court but he showed aparthy to appear before Seven

of the accused Taheruddin Thakur, Shah Moazzem Hossain, KM Obaidur

'Mosquitoes

are of 11

categories'

By Staff Correspondent

categorised mosquitoes into 11

different types such as rural, urban,

local, alien, national, tribal and

the results of their bites. A mosquito

bite may make a person ill or even

leave a person battling for life. A

mosquito-bitten person may suffer

from convulsion or be panicked,"

Haji Mohammad Selim said in the

of public importance, Selim termed

the mosquito species as a tiny flying

insect that in his words has "stood

have found their place in prose and

poetry, in the story of Namrood and

even in the holy Quraan. Cartoons

are scripted on the use of cannons

against mosquitoes. Aeroplanes

were used to kill mosquitoes in the

British-ruled India and the Zia-

ruled Bangladesh. In recent times,

mosquitoes have also made fogger

of Aedes mosquito now available in

the jungles of Indian state of Assam.

This kind of mosquito cannot see

and does not bite at night. But the

type now swarming in the parlia-

ment can see by day as well as at

night that has resulted in a round-

the officials of the health ministry

and of the Dhaka City Corporation

(DCC) for shirking their responsi-

The ruling party MP also blamed

It is said that Africa is the source

machines roar to frighten people.

In his notice on the urgent issues

"Mosquitoes are ubiquitous and

"As their types are many, so are

parliamentary mosquitoes.

Jativa Sangsad vesterday.

the test of time."

the-clock battle.

A ruling party lawmaker has

Rahman, Lt Col (dismissed) Sved Farookur Rahman, Lt. Col (Retd) Sultan Shariar Rashid Khan, Major (Retd) Bazlul Huda and Major (Retd) Khairuzzaman are now detained at the Dhaka Central Jail. They were produced in the court

during the hearing. Four national leaders Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, AHM Quamruzzaman and Captain Mansur Ali were brutally killed inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Then DIG (Prison) Kabi Abdul Awal filed the Jail Killing Case with Lalbagh thana on November 4,

Special PP Sirajul Haq and Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam appeared for the state while Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, Abdul Majid Munshi, Hazi Nazrul Islam, ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul and SM Rafigul Islam for the accused.

Truck kills 4 in Comilla COMILLA, Jan 24 (UNB): A

road accident in Debidar upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway left four people killed and two others injured today, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Idris Ali of Faridpur district, Khurshed Alam, 32, and his brother Amir Hossain Monu, 17, and Shahidul Islam, 25.

Police said the accident took place when a truck knocked them down in front of Sadat Jute Mill at 7.30 am. Idris, a van puller, was repairing his van while the other victims were standing beside him hen the truck hit them

The injured Nurul Alam and

Shahidul were hospitalised. Angry workers and local people barricaded the road after the accident, disrupting traffic for over three hours. A case was filed.

Hill students

From Page 12 They said that army had 13 PCP

workers arrested including its vice president Milton Chakma from a peaceful rally at the Manikchhari on cember 3, 2000.

release of all the arrested leaders and workers and withdrawal of 'false cases' lodged against them by police

administration through a greater agitation programme in the Chittagong Hill Tracts area if the arrested are not released immedi-

Among others, Champanan Chakma, Benjin Chakma, Meky Khisha and Dipanker Tripura addressed the rally.

Earlier, they brought out a procession from Madhu's canteen in Dhaka University and paraded through the campus.

crackers and sharp weapons, were locked in a clash near the slum. The gangs exchanged gunshots, They demanded immediate blasted crackers and damaged a number of roadside shops, creating panic in the area and disrupting traffic on Tongi Diversion Road for about two hours. Kuddus, 35, a rickshawpuller They threatened to paralyse the

and a resident of the slum, was injured critically in the clash. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet injury in the abdomen.

The clash ended as police intervened. But none was arrested Additional police force was deployed in the area after the clash.

When asked how crackers could be exploded at the slum in presence of police, a DMP official said they did not get any such complaint. He,

however, said police are investigat ing whether there is any link between the clash and the fire incident.

Eight fire fighting units extinguished the fire in about an hour. Traffic movement on Tongi Diversion Road was disrupted again for about an hour as hundreds of people gathered there during the

fire. At one stage, police charged batons to disperse the crowd. Local people alleged that police were very much aware of illegal phensidyl trade at the slum but did not take any step to stop it for mone-

tary gains Yesterday's clash followed abduction of two teenaged relatives of Sobhan by Kiran's men from the slum on Monday. Tejgaon police rescued them the same day.

From Page 12

officer of the Bureau of Anticorruption, filed the case with Cantonment thana against Altaf

was charged with misappropriating Tk 1,27,570 from non-public funds, for providing televisions and dish antena to the people of his own village in 1994.

officer of the Bureau of Anticorruption filed the second case with Cantonment thana on October 15, 1998 against the former air

Talukdur for the accused.

Split in CPI-M likely

Subhash Chakrabarty may declare new party in Kolkata today

By Sakyasen Mittra

KOLKATA, Jan 24: There is every possibility that the CPI-M party will split tomorrow with Transport and Sports Minister Subhas Chakrabarty announcing the formation of his new party at a workers' gathering at the Brigade parade ground here. A few other top leaders of the party are also expected to quit CPI-M to join his new party. Amongst them is Samir Patutundu, the man, who has been always

clamouring for democracy. The CPI-M state secretariat knows that tomorrow it will probably face its greatest crisis since leading the left revolution in West Bengal 25 years ago. The unity that they had been displaying for so long has every possibility of vanishing into thin air

Last ditch efforts are on to prevent the split. The former Chief Minister of the state Jyoti Basu is

himself leading the efforts. Basu, today conducted a couple

of meetings with the CPI-M state secretary, Anil Biswas to solve the present crisis. Tomorrow, he will meet all the members of the district committee of the North 24-Parganas to try and find out a solution to the internal fight that has been plaguing the party in that particular district.

Subhas Chakrabarty, in spite of being an important minister has not found a place on the district committee of the North 24-Parganas for the last two years. So as a first step to prevent his exist from the party. Basu has asked the district leaders to include Chakrabarty in the committee. The formal announcement will come tomorrow.

Basu has also called for a meeting of all the members of the district committee of North 24-Parganas and Chakrabarty, however, one is not sure whether the latter will attend the meeting. Chakrabarty is scheduled to attend his own rally at the Brigade Parade Ground at the

When asked him about his decision on quitting the party Chakrabarty, today did not directly reply whether he would actually quit. But he reiterated his claim of not contesting the elections.

"I have repeatedly said that I will not contest the polls again. The party has the rule of not allowing a candidate to contest more than three times and I have already won on five successive occasions. So I should step down following the guideline that has been set up by the party," he said.

Textbook From Page 1

Addressing the rally, SCF leaders said, the textbooks, printed using low quality paper, are full of errors.

Books printed for free distribution are being sold in shops, they alleged. The Pustaka has sold out allotment letters to five note book printers in the city to make profit, violating terms and conditions of the NCTB tender for the job, they

When contacted Dr. Tapan Kanti Chowdhury, Chairman of NCTB, declined to comment on the issue and said, "I'm doing my duty, that's all . . . I shall not talk about this.

Blast at rally

President Shahabuddin Ahmed but did not disclose its findings for

tiya Sangsad, reports BSS. the sake of the investigation. The Bills are International

Commercial Arbitration Bill, 2001, Preservation and Display of the Portrait of the Father of the Nation Bill, 2001 and The Registration of Private Schools (Amendment) Bill. 2001, a press release of the Jatiya

The current session of the Sangsad began on January 11.

From Page 12 information about the bomb blast

yesterday gave assent to three bills passed in the current session of the

The committee members will question the injured victims at the hospitals today. CID Special Superintendent Lutfor Rahman said that two CID teams were sent to the Ibrahimpur area to arrest suspects. Meanwhile, a person named

Mostafiz was arrested on Monday night in connection with the second bomb explosion at Bangabandhu Avenue. Police said he is a cousin of Mashiur who was injured in the second bomb explosion. Mostafiz was produced before the court and placed on a three-day remand. Nine other arrested in connection with the bomb explosion were

sent to the Dhaka Central Jail after a two-day police remand.

said that he was not at all worried about the increasing trade deficit

any other country. We import some raw materials at a very cheap rate from India and export goods made out of these to

because import from India is much

more cost-efficient than that from

other countries," the official said If India allow duty-free access to 25 categories of items from Bangla desh, the trade deficit would further

come down, he observed. India has committed duty-free access of 191 items under 25 categories to its markets last year. However, the arrangement is yet to take

Industry Minister Tofail Ahmed at a recent seminar on South Asian Co-operation strongly criticised India for creating various tariff and non-tariff barriers to goods from Bangladesh. He also criticised India for not allowing duty-free access of

FEMA From Page 12

goods from least developed nations

monitor the next parliamentary election. Senior journalists Reazuddin

in South Asia

Ahmed, Enavetullah Khan, Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul Rakibuddin and Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury also took part in the discussion FEMA officials Ataur Rahman,

Munira Khan, Dr Shaqwkat Ara Hossain. Dr Nasir Uddin and Advocate Salma Ali were also present.

overall development in all parts of

the country," she said mentioning

steps taken for the development of

She said all elections under the

Awami League government were

held peacefully and the people

Comilla and Barura upazila.

JUTA polls today

Abu Sayeed Khan and asimuddin Aȟmed.

The two pro-Al groups have jointly nominated a 15-member panel, calling it 'pro-liberation war panel'.The two pro-BNP groups have also nominated another 15member panel styled 'Jativtabadi Shikkhak Parishad'.

The candidates for the posts of JUTA president and secretary are Prof. Ajit Kumar Mojumder (Statistics) and Ahmed Reza (English) from the pro-Al group and Prof AFM Obaidur Rahman (Philosophy) and Kamrul Ahsan (Archaeology) from

the pro-BNP group.

The pro-BNP teachers became divided when one group led by Prof Mustahidur Rahman made an alliance with the then VC Prof Alauddin Ahmed in 1998 and contested the next JUTA polls jointly with pro-AL teachers.
Another pro-BNP faction led by

Prof Abu Sayeed Khan and Prof Jasimuddin Ahmed had joined the anti-VC group led by the then pro-VC Prof Abdul Bayes and contested the polls jointly with the pro-AL

But the Bayes-Sayeed-Jasim

group bagged almost all the posts in the election, held after Prof Alauddin Ahmed resigned as VC in November 1999.

Sources said, the reconciliation between the two pro-BNP groups was possible due to intervention by some BNP central leaders.
Five shot as

terrorists clash in Ctg From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 24: At least

five people were injured by bullet, in a gunfight between two groups of terrorists in front of Agrabad T&T Colony under Double Mooring thana this afternoon. The clash erupted between the

two rival groups over establishing supremacy in the area at around 3

One of the injured, identified as Saiful Islam, 25, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) while four others to local clinics.

JCD representatives Laltu seriously damaged the image

From Page 12 the new committee that has been frustrating the genuine and dedicated activists.

Another leader said some activists, who always maintains liaison with the central leaders, are being included in the central and local committees, while deserving activists fail to reach their cherished

A JCD leader from Chittagong was forced to stop his speech after he strongly opposed forming alliance with pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir. The student leader was compelled to finish his speech as the chair rang the bell.

Many ICD leaders observed that the newspaper criticism soon after the formation of the new central committee headed by Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Shahabuddin

They said this may harm BNP in

the next general elections. JCD insiders said most of the speakers are loyal to the Pintu-Laltu faction. Of them, about a dozen were allowed to speak in presence of BNP

Zia attended the meeting as chief guest in the evening. JCD leaders alleged that Pintu and Laltu in prepared the list in away so that people who are loyal to

Chairperson Khaleda Zia. Khaleda

can only speak in front of Khaleda and praise their leadership. Before Pintu appeared, a number of central leaders sitting on the

dais welcomed the reporters and made sitting arrangements by removing activists from the press corner.

Gano Forum tells rally

From Page 12 He criticised ruling Awami League for its efforts to cling to power and opposition BNP for its desire to go to power by any means.

"This mindset led them to patronise armed cadres, mastaans and godfathers' and build alliance with loan defaulters, smugglers and those who amass black money through corruption.' Condemning the government for enacting the Public Safety Act

(PSA), he said such a law will not make any real contribution to improvement of law and order. 'Instead, it (PSA) would be abused. Many of the top godfathers remain above the law and their armed cadres are terrorising innocent people and students in educational institutions. Dr Kamal also bitterly criticised

the ruling party and the Opposition for making the Jatiya Sangsad ineffective. He also criticised the

government for evicting of slum dwellers without steps for their rehabilitation. An autonomous Election Com-

mission is a prerequisite for fair and free election, the internationally famed jurist said. "If necessary, the EC has to be reformed." BTV and Radio should also be autonomous. Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, gen

eral secretary of the party, demanded a neutral investigation into the bomb attack. He said the Home Minister should resign for his failure to ensure security at the CPB Without naming the Prime

Minister he said, "How can you run your government if you fail to ensure people's safety?" The meeting was also addressed

by, among others, party central leaders Pankaj Bhattachariya, Saidul Rahman Sved. Dr Abdul Hakim and Abdul Kashem Sagir.

Train services with India

From Page 1 severed

After Bangladesh's independence, only goods train service was reintroduced in 1972 for a brief period of two years but was again

system on this south-western route. Railway sources said schedule for trains on the Benapole-Petrapole route would be decided after reviewing cargo movement over the next

Shahbazpur-Mahishan, Rohanpur-Sinhabad, Birol-Radhikapur and Darsana- Gethe.

tonnes of cargo were transported between Bangladesh and India via Benapole A bulk of that volume would now be transported through the rail link,

Last vear some seven lakh

railway officials predict, adding that with the delay caused by transhipment, it would be both time and cost Another possible railway connecting point used earlier is the

Chirati-Haldighat point. There have been some discussions on launching of a railway route linking Akhaura with Agartala. This juncture could facilitate transportation of goods to India's eastern states. However, it would require more time, since there is no rail line there. Most of the railway trains con-

necting India and Bangladesh carry fertiliser, food grains, boulder and cement. Both Nepal and Bhutan are also benefited by the Bangladesh Railway system.

Akhter's JS seat

The HC issued the rule after hearing the petitioners' counsel Dr Kamal Hossain and Attorney General Mahmudul Islam on constitutional aspects of the matter.

The EC declared Akhtaruzzaman's seat vacated on a reference by the Speaker following a letter from the Chief Whip of BNP. The Whip informed him that Akhtaruzzaman was expelled from BNP for attending Parliament session in violation of party decision and in this regard he cited articles 66 (4), 67(1) (e) and 70 (1) of the Constitution.

The five voters from Katiadi thana of Kishoreganj in their writ petition said the EC gave the order in violation of their fundamental rights guaranteed by articles 27 and 31 of the Constitution and that their MP had attended parliament session legally. They further said the EC action negated their right to be represented in Parliament through their elected MP.

Dr Kamal Hossain argued that

Akhtaruzzaman neither voted against BNP nor resigned from it, warranting his expulsion from the party for violation of articles 67(1) and 70 of the Constitution. BNP had intentionally expelled him, he said. The Constitution provides that

if an MP votes against his party, he is liable to lose his membership. But there is no such evidence in this Dr Kamal Hossain said. adding that the EC's decision was contrary to constitutional provi-Attorney General Mahmudul

Islam said that a member of parliament shall attend its proceedings as per constitutional mandate. No party can give directive to an MP not to attend the proceedings of parliament, he observed. The AG further said that a term

used in the Constitution has to be

interpreted in the context of constitutional provisions and not other-

killing four people on the spot and injuring many others in the worst terrorist attack on political function in recent times. In another explosion nearby two people were killed on the day and another died later. Addressing a huge public meet-

ing at Barura Shaheed Smrity Government College ground in the Prime Minister afternoon. Hasina pointed out that the bomb went off in the CPB rally at 5:15 pm and Khaleda Zia gave interview with BBC at 6 pm.

She alleged that Khaleda Zia knew everything. BNP is accustomed to doing politics of killing and is now trying to shift their responsibility to Awami League, she said. "Now you are accusing Awami

League, but Awami League does not believe in the politics of violence and killing," the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister said BNP had destroyed the environment of

polls by killing Chhatra League

leader Basunia. They had also killed

leaders, she alleged. She said that in a planned way,

BNP and its allies are trying to spread terrorism in the country to disturb law-and-order situation. She alleged that Jamaat is unleashing terrorism and committing rape and violence in different parts of the The alliance of "vote thieves,

capture power, letting loose anarchy in the country, she said. The Prime Minister cautioned Khaleda against trying to destroy democracy by hatching conspiracy in league with razakars and autocrats. She warned Khaleda not to

razakars and autocrats" are trying to

incite anarchy in the country. She urged the people to remain alert against all conspiracies of the opposition alliance, saying: "If we can foil their conspiracy, we will be able to achieve economic emancipation of the people.

She said Khaleda's husband introduced the politics of coup,

moon period immediately after the election to launch a vigorous reform programme, so that the next economic tiger will be the Bengal tiger." He also said that the business

constituencies for reform and to

generate expectations that the next

government will use the honev-

community should analyse the economic policies on the election manifestos of the political parties to identify points of agreement. These points of agreement should provide good starting point for a broadly acceptable economic reform programme, no matter which party comes to power and which is in opposition, to help the country to achieve its economic potential

Thousands homeless Former air chief

fulfil his political ambition. Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman,

Hossain Chowdhury on October 15, In the second case, the accused

M Akhter Hamid Bhuiyan,

Assistant PP Faridul Alam Talukder appeared for the state whole Advocate Masud Ahmed

PM hints at Khaleda's involvement

killing and conspiracy in the country

and now she (Khaleda) is following

capture power and later killed a

"General Zia used the army to

in her husband's footsteps.

large number of army personnel to consolidate the ill-gotten power,' she told her audience. Hasina said general Zia had rehabilitated in national politics the killers and collaborators of libera-

tion war and initiated electoral

fraud in the country. The Prime Minister said that the government is only busy with development activities to ensure a better life for the people and mentioned that the country is getting good results of excellent performance under her administration.

She said the government has taken a number of projects, includtions system and telecom network. "We are trying to expand

ing housing and micro-credit schemes for the rural poor and is trying to develop the communica-

network of electricity and ensure

started getting the fruits of develop-People from all walks of life joined the meeting and the big field and nearby areas were filled with

Upazila Awami League president Abdul Hakim MP presided over the meeting. It was also addressed by district AL president Prof Khorshed Alam and Municipal Chairman Mir Mobarak Hossain.

huge crowds from far and near.

closed due low volume of goods. In the intervening years movement of goods has increased in volume despite a troublesome transport

one month. Goods train connecting Bangla desh and India are presently operating on four other routes --

It was learnt that the opening of the Benapole-Petrapole link would divert traffic from the Darshana-Gethe route and facilitate movement to Dhaka